

Scare up a great costume

Halloween brings
witchy women
and manly men

BY RACHALL PARADIS
AND JENNIFER RIPLEY

Last-minute shopping is not just for Christmas anymore, as local Halloween enthusiasts are pushing the deadline when it comes to buying or even digging up a costume. However, pulling a white sheet out of the closet and cutting out eyes doesn't cut it anymore!

Whether you're going to Salem, attending a party, or taking a younger sibling trick-or-treating, there's one thing you have to figure out first: What should you be for Halloween?

You can get some suggestions from Jack Hoover, owner of Halloween Costume World in Fitchburg. Hoover has been in the Halloween business for 17 years and, he said, he sells tens of thousands of costumes each year.

It's the chance to dress up and be whatever you want that has made Halloween the second largest retail holiday next to Christmas, Hoover said. And as one of his customers told him, "Halloween is fun; Christmas is a chore."

Hoover's been tracking costume trends for years, so he knows what's hot, what's trendy, what's always around, and even how to pull together a last-minute look.



STAFF PHOTO BY MEGAN BENEVIDES

From left, Krista Godard, Dayna Green and Megan Benevides agree that basic black works especially well for Halloween costumes.

This year, as always, some of the hottest costumes have come out of Hollywood. Harry Potter, Shrek, and Spider-Man are especially popular, along with such tried-and-true movie favorites as Batman and "Star Wars" charac-

ters. "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies seem to have launched the latest really big seller - pirate costumes - but there may be more to it than that. The real appeal of pirates is that they can be

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STAFF PHOTO BY MEGAN BENEVIDES

The Volunteer Center staff is accepting donations of teddy bears and books through the end of October.

Volunteers welcome

BY JENNIFER RIPLEY

"If you want to make a difference, this is the place to start," said Jenna Frangiamore of the Volunteer Center at Fitchburg State College.

Frangiamore, a criminal-justice major at FSC, said her work at the Volunteer Center allows her to help local children and the elderly.

The Volunteer Center brings students from Fitchburg State together with agencies from the surrounding community.

Volunteers typically reach out to community members with nursing-home visits, mentoring, children's book collections and clothing drives. To be successful, the Volunteer Center needs students to participate.

There are many opportunities here at FSC for students to help out, and many of them don't require a large time commitment, Frangiamore said.

"Even if they want to be there for just an hour," volunteer efforts are always appreciated, Frangiamore said. She went on to explain that students may volunteer for just a single event. There are also chances to help without participating in the events themselves; volunteers may create or post flyers to publicize the events.

For those who want to get involved with the Volunteer Center right away, there's a Teddy Bear and Book Drive now in progress.

Donations are being accepted through the end of October; the bears and books will be given to local homeless and battered-women's shelters.

According to Frangiamore, the Volunteer Center has many other events planned for the rest of the year. These include "Fall Day for kids, World AIDS Day in December, and an Angel Tree

The joy of music



Who are these women, and why do they call themselves the Lascivious Biddies? See story on Page 2.

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The Lascivious Biddies really get a kick out of jazz-based music.

Biddies spread the beat

BY JON HENRIE

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to go to a New York City club, sit down, close your eyes, and listen to a live jazz band play original songs?

Well, Nov. 2 may be the day you get to find out. That's when Fitchburg State College is set to welcome the Lascivious Biddies, an all-female "cocktail-pop quartet," for an 8 p.m. performance in Percival Hall.

Dubbed "Manhattan's Hippest Girl Group" by the Washington Post, the Biddies have become known for blending jazz, pop, and cabaret with four-part harmonies. As their name implies, the Biddies can be bawdy, too. Because of that, they say their shows are geared to audiences ages 18 and older.

"There are a couple of songs that may be considered on the tawdry side; one song has the B-word," double-bass player Saskia Lane explained in an interview with the Washington Post.

And there are sarcastic references

to bad behavior in tunes such as "Stay Famous," which Lane described as "an ironic tale about what can happen to a person." According to the Providence Journal, "The Lascivious Biddies push the sexy, both in their name and in the way they sell themselves, but what the New York female quartet really has going on is chops and intelligence. They're all serious jazz players and/or conservatory types who start with cocktail-lounge pop and take it from there into country, jazz and more."

The four women – bassist Lane along with Amanda Monaco on guitar, Lee Ann Westover on lead vocal, and Deidre Rodman on piano and melodic – have given performances in the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Birdland in New York City.

Tickets to the Lascivious Biddies cost \$22 for the general public; \$20 for faculty, staff and senior citizens; \$7 for FSC students.

For details, call the Weston Box Office at 978-665-3347.

Costumes so cute, they're spooky

Continued from Page 1

"demonic for men, sexy for women, you can carry a sword, and most of all the dialogue is fun," Tony Bianchi, owner of Halloween Adventure in New York, told the "Today Show."

Also trendy this year is accessories. "You can accessorize yourself to death," Hoover says. "For instance, the cop costume comes with everything ... handcuffs, whistle, belt, boots, hat, all the police paraphernalia."

Accessories are making the costumes this year, as they are key components of playing the part.

Despite the shifting trends, there are the classic costumes you will always see out and about.

Traditionally, women's favorite costumes are sexy, Bianchi said, while men prefer to look heroic.

"Nurses and witches are always in style," Hoover said, "along with eroticized costumes such as a police officer, Bo-Peep, and Red Riding Hood."

Greek goddesses are also classic choice for women. Bianchi stressed that being a Greek goddess is very comfortable, as the costume's material is loose, light, and suitable for most shapes.

For women who prefer to look cute and sweet, it's very easy to pull off a bumblebee or ladybug costume, Bianchi said.

What about the men? "Costumes that sell big every fall for men are cops and doctors," said Hoover.

He said the infamous movie horror characters Freddy and Jason are also always popular. Men also tend to choose comical costumes when they are going out on their own or with their



STAFF PHOTO BY MEGAN BENEVIDES

On Halloween, even Pikachu gets to come out and play.

buddies. "Beer-keg costumes," said Hoover, "are a favorite among college guys."

For couples, customers tend to choose matching costumes from different eras. Hoover said that the 1950s era of "Pink Ladies and T-Birds" is a popular choice, along with Renaissance characters.

Friends often get together on costumes too, Hoover said, with groups of four wearing complementary costumes

inspired by the Flintstones, the Wizard of Oz, and the Addams Family.

Along with selling costumes, Hoover also dresses up for Halloween.

He said the best costume he ever wore was a robot costume with plat-forms in the legs to make him 10 feet tall.

That costume once won him a trip for two to Cancun in a costume contest, Hoover said; it is now on display in the back of his store.

Volunteer Center makes a difference

Continued from Page 1

for Christmas." Some of the Volunteer Center's events are targeted to children from the neighborhoods around FSC.

"A lot of kids don't have anything fun to do," Frangiamore said. To help remedy this, Fall Day will offer games and a petting zoo for kids.

Planning events for local children can be rewarding, Frangiamore said. "The kids recognize you, they know who you are and what you did."

Among the Volunteer Center's success stories was last year's Blood Drive, according to Frangiamore. "We got a good turnout."

She said the Christmas Angel Tree was a big hit as well.

The tree was decorated with names of local children, she explained; members of the FSC community picked names and bought a gift – either a jacket, pants, or a toy – for the child whose name they had picked.

"We had to refill the tree three times," Frangiamore said.

Frangiamore said students who are thinking about helping out with Volunteer Center activities should stop in and visit the center, located off the Main Lounge in the Hammond Building.

"Come in and ask," she said. "There's always something to get involved in."

To reach the Volunteer Center by phone, call 978-665-3649.

Calendar of events

COMPILED BY
MARISA GALLOWAY

Oct. 27

Greek Council's Annual Halloween Party - 1-3 p.m.; Hammond building; free and open to public; sponsored by Greek Council.

Falcons Football Game - 7 p.m.; away; vs. Westfield State

Men's Soccer - 1 p.m.; away; vs. MCLA

Field Hockey - 11 a.m.; home; vs. Southern Maine

Cross Country - 11 a.m.; away; Alliance Meet

Oct. 30

History of Rock & Roll: The '60s - 8-11 p.m.; Hammond Building; free; sponsored by Programs Committee.

Women's Soccer - MASCAC Tournament semifinals; location and time: TBA

Field Hockey - Little East Tournament Quarterfinals; location and time: TBA

Oct. 31

Monster Bash Halloween Party - 9 p.m.-midnight; Hammond Building, Underground Pub; free; 18+; FSC OneCard required; sponsored by Office of Student Development.

Men's Soccer - MASCAC Tournament semifinals; location and time: TBA

Nov. 1

Lascivious Biddies - 2-4 p.m.; Percival Auditorium; free; cabaret/pop entertainment mixed with lecture

Seventh Annual Tribute to Robert Cormier - 3-5:30 pm.; Miller Hall; readings of the author's work; free.

Nov. 2

Movie "We Are Marshall" - 7-9 p.m.; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; free; sponsored by Housing and Residential Services.

Meet the Itty Biddies: Concert of



Rik Reppe will offer his reaction to the Sept. 11 terror attack in a performance titled "Staggering Towards America."

American Stories for Young Audiences - 10-11:30 a.m.; \$15 public, \$5 FSC students; stories and songs in interactive performance; co-sponsored by Hannaford Supermarkets.

Field Hockey - Little East Tournament Semifinals; location and time: TBA

Lascivious Biddies - 8-10 p.m.; musical performance; Percival Auditorium; tickets are \$22 general public; \$20 for faculty, staff and seniors; \$7 FSC students; call the Weston Box Office at 978-665-3347

Nov. 3

Fall Open House - 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; open house for prospective students; Hammond Building; sponsored by Admissions.

Falcons Football - noon; home vs. Maine Maritime

Men and Women's Soccer - MAS-

CAC Tournament Finals; location and time TBA

Field Hockey - Little East Tournament Final; location and time: TBA

Cross Country - Away; Time: TBA; ECAC Meet

Nov. 7

Italian Book Club - 6:30-8:30 p.m.; informal discussion of "Christ Stopped at Eboli" by Carlo Levi; facilitated by professor Terry Thomas; free; sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture.

Nov. 8

Rik Reppe: Staggering Towards America - 7:30-9 p.m.; Reppe's reaction to Sept. 11; \$10 public, \$7 for faculty, staff, and seniors, \$5 FSC students; free with CenterStage membership card.

Christian Fellowship open to all

BY CARA SHAFFER

Religious faith is right at home at Fitchburg State College — just ask members of the Christian Fellowship group, which meets weekly in the Hammond Building.

"There are about 20 students involved this year," said Carolyn Stacy, president of the interdenominational Christian group. "We usually have about 10 to 15 each week — about 10 people who show up regularly and about 10 who come and go."

The group meets on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in Hammond G-07. Meetings alternate between Bible study and activities. "So far this semester we had a soda-pong tournament, a study on what it means to be a Christian, a sports night, and a study on purpose," Stacy said.

"To tell you the truth, it feels great," said Karen Reyes, secretary of the group. "I love to hear what other people think or say about God and the Bible. It also helped me get out of my really shy shell."

How did the group start, and when did it begin? Members weren't sure. "But I know it's been there long before I was a freshman," Reyes joked.

Although Christian Fellowship is an official campus organization, membership is not required for people to attend meetings, Stacy said. "Since we are not a funded group, people aren't really considered members or nonmembers. All you need to do is show up." Reyes agreed, "We don't do any of the membership stuff. We just welcome anybody."

Reyes said the Christian Fellowship has enriched her life at FSC. "Hanging out with the people from the group is fun," she said. "I made great friends and I thank God for that. So basically, the group is all about sharing our faith, the word of God and having a great fellowship."

Emergency? Students come to the rescue at FSC



The Rescue Squad is on the move, coming to the aid of students at Fitchburg State College.

By John Daaboul

If you break your arm or have another medical emergency, is anyone likely to come to your rescue?

Yes — that's exactly what the members of Fitchburg State College's student EMT service do, and they do it in relative anonymity.

Founded in 1989 by Fitchburg State College students to provide immediate medical intervention on campus, the FSC Rescue Squad is an emergency intervention team consisting of trained students and Campus Police officers.

When there is a medical emergency at FSC, squad members and a supervising Campus Police officer (advisers for the squad are officers William Fisher and Darren Gal) rush to the scene with

the equipment and training required, to give basic life support to someone in need.

Anyone interested in joining the squad must first enroll in the FSC Rescue Squad Academy. This is where prospective squad members earn certification in First Responder, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator, and the squad's own policies.

One student who called the Rescue Squad after injuring his foot said he found the members to be competent and professional.

The squad is currently seeking members to work the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. For more information, call Dispatcher Alan Saball at extension 4848 or send email to him at asaball3@fsc.edu.

Skateboarder builds on self-expression

BY BRITTANY ABRAHAM

If you build it ... they will come, and they will see your personal signature on it. At least that's how it has worked for senior Tristan Noone, a commuter student at Fitchburg State College. Noone spent several weeks this summer building a skateboard ramp behind his home. He found that the project allowed him to take the skills he's been learning as a graphic-arts major, and use them to bring his own visions to life.

"It's difficult to find places to skateboard because of the many laws against the sport. It can be dangerous," Noone said.

Many students spend time skating at Ryan C. Joubert Park, Fitchburg's public skate park on Beech Street. "The park is a great place to brush up on skills, meet up with friends, and make new ones," Noone said.

Still, he wanted a place where he could really satisfy his own need for self-expression. So, after many afternoons at the park, Noone felt inspired enough to create his own personal ramp. With assistance from good friend Michael Page, Noone also sprayed murals on the walls of the garage around the ramp to give it his own signature.

"This was really the first time I got to see my major, graphic design, come into play beyond the computer," Noone said. "I used my knowledge of graphics to design a cityscape that comes to life with faces on the buildings. On the ceiling there are broken skateboards, as well as clouds and a flying pig."

He continued, "When you skate the ramp, the mural can really take you to a whole other place. Skateboarding is about expression. Unlike most sports, skateboarding allows you to create your own moves and style."

The skateboard ramp has become a place for Noone to connect with



STAFF PHOTOS BY
MEGAN BENEVIDES
Tristan Noone, below, has created a world of his own in his backyard, where friends can skateboard against a fanciful backdrop.

This was really the first time I got to see my major, graphic design, come into play beyond the computer.

Tristan Noone

old friends and make new ones. "On Thursday nights a bunch of us will get together and go to Tristan's house. It's a good time," said sophomore Matt Frasier. "We all teach each other new tricks. It's really cool that there's a place in walking distance of the college that we can do this."

Noone said he takes pride in the finished project, but also enjoyed building it.

"One of my favorite memories about the ramp is when me and Mike were putting it together," he said. "I thought about making a brick wall on one side of it. I stacked the bricks up and then tested it to see if it would stay. It didn't. I fell onto Mike and we both went tumbling. I had paint all over me from falling. It was hilarious. Memories like that will stay forever, and will help me with projects like these in the future."



Elevator renovations have students feeling down

BY: RACHAEL PARADIS

Residents of Aubuchon Hall have been facing some aggravation lately, since the south elevator has been deemed off-limits to everyone, including staff.

Phase 2 renovations of the south elevator began on Sept. 17, and are expected to last through Thanksgiving. To accomplish these renovations, the elevator had to be shut down completely.

"They are redoing the elevator, gutting it and putting in new cars," explained Aubuchon Building Director Melissa Tasca. "It's not just new doors, it's very thorough."

And it's a project that needed to be done.

"The elevator is being completely replaced," said Mike Ferrara, head of Facilities. "They were just old and in need of refurbishing. Part of it was cosmetic; you get a new elevator, it's nicer and brighter."

Phase 1 of the elevator renovations

Aubuchon Hall residents get used to taking stairs

had begun in August, after Russell Towers' elevators had been completed, and Phase 2 had to be put off until after summer.

"We needed both of the elevators for the move-in; we didn't have time to complete both in the summer,ime," Ferrara explained.

Ferrara also noted, "It was not a safety issue; our elevators are checked yearly."

Unfortunately, several problems have come to pass since the closing of the south elevator, among these impatience and tardiness among students.

"You have to wait twice as long!" Ben Proulx, a sophomore living on the 9th floor of Aubuchon, complained. "Taking the stairs from the 9th floor is

such a pain. There is also twice as many people in the elevator as everyone crowds in fear of taking the stairs!"

His suitemates seem to have the same feelings.

"Why would they wait until now? I am late to class every day," said Tom Rubendall, also a 9th-floor resident at Aubuchon.

Not everyone has to face the detours associated with the elevator renovations, and not everyone even cares about the aggravation it is bringing.

"The elevators stink, but I don't care because I do not use them. I can take the stairs, I only live on the fifth floor," said freshman Nina Perez as she passed by the elevator and headed for the south stairs.

Also, besides the waiting, the tardiness, and the frustration, one other problem seemed to be a common theme.

Of those interviewed, many complained of the noise that comes along with the renovations.

"The elevator construction woke me up this morning," Perez said, adding that she was not alone in this.

However, Eric Hansen, the director of capital planning and maintenance, said that the construction of the elevators is not compromising any other projects planned; everything is prioritized.

"This is worth it," Hansen said. The cost of the elevator is approximately \$483,000, some of which is granted from the Massachusetts State College Building Authority, and the rest from the school's budget.

Every semester, when room and board is collected, some it goes to the MSBCA, and some goes back to the school.

Opinion: Students can help Darfur

By Julie Miller

Across the country, many college students are mobilizing to bring attention to one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crises of our time. Quinnipiac University and the University of Pennsylvania are among those that have begun protests to bring awareness about the war-riddled country of Darfur.

The students hope to make their classmates and the surrounding communities aware of the ongoing genocide. Through fund-raisers and peaceful protests, colleges have been able to raise money for this cause and enlighten many other students about how they too can help.

Through organizations such as Invisible Children and SaveDarfur.org, the citizens of Darfur are getting some desperately needed aid. However, there is still so much more that needs to be done.

Due to advancements in modern technology, we are now a global society. This enables us to travel, communicate, and be more aware of others outside the United States borders. Because of this, we have the capabilities to help others in non-industrialized and developing societies in the world. So why don't we? And what exactly is going on in Darfur?

For the past four years Darfur, a part of the Sudan, has been faced with a deadly conflict that has claimed the lives of over 400,000 people, and has displaced more than 2 million innocent civilians. Every day the people of the Sudan face their homes being burned, their families murdered and their women and children being assaulted and raped.

Why is all of this happening? Like most poor nations there is a great need for national change; however, this change cannot come about without the government support.

Since early 2003, the Sudanese government-backed militia (known as the Janjaweed) and the Sudanese armed forces have been fighting two rebel groups in Darfur known as the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement. The main goal of these two rebel groups has been to compel the Sudanese government to address the underdevelopment and the political marginalization of the region. The government's response to these rebels is to target civilian populations and ethnic groups (the Fur, Masalit, and the Zaghawa) causing an ongoing violent conflict and struggle between these groups, causing many dead or misplaced civilians.



STAFF PHOTO BY MEGAN BENEVIDES

Benefit concerts are one way of drawing students together so they can learn more about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

The Bush administration has recognized the crime against humanity and has labeled it as **genocide**. Genocide is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group."

Many powerful people in the world have called this conflict one of the most complex humanitarian problems on the globe and said that the United Nations should be deploying more peace-keeping troops in the Sudan to help the victims.

Although peace agreements have been made, all of them have been broken and the violence ensues. On Sept. 30, there was yet another attack on the southern town of Muhajeria in Darfur in which the Sudanese army and the Janjaweed militia made the offensive push into this small town. This attack occurred nearly a week after the rebel attack at the African Union base near the town of Haskanita, which left ten AU workers dead.

Since this attack, more than 15,000 civilians have moved away from their homes after they were burned to the ground after the government seized control over the situation. CNN has reported that the U.S. Embassy has asked for opposing sides to "immediately end the cycle of violence" and hold a cease-fire until the two parties meet for a peace talk in Libya later this month.

Since the violence and danger have

grown to such a high degree, humanitarian groups and U.N. aid support groups were asked to leave south Darfur until conditions become less violent. The U.N. hopes to forge a peace agreement to stop the violence and help the millions of displaced refugees. When asked about the conflict in Darfur and how to go about solving this genocide, Jean-Marie Guehenno, the U.N. undersecretary general for peacekeeping operations, has told CNN, "If you want to ensure the protection of civilians, you need that mobility, you need the capacity to transport troops quickly to a place you hear there is some trouble developing and you need to have the firepower

and the strength to immediately dominate the situation."

With all this being said and impending actions in the works, will the small, war-ridden country of Darfur ever see a time where there is peace and no bloodshed?

Don't the people of Darfur deserve to live a free, peaceful life where their children and grandchildren will be granted the same rights and liberties as so many other countries in the world?

To find out how you can help the victims of Darfur or find out more information on this humanitarian crisis, go to www.invisiblechildren.com or simply Google "Darfur."

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Virtual tour gets real recognition

Software company Adobe named Fitchburg State College's virtual tour as Site of the Day for Oct. 17.

The honor goes to Web sites that are created using the company's software, according to Adobe.

"Adobe recognizes Web sites based on their use of strong visual designs, superior functionalities, and innovative uses of Adobe products."

"Recognition by such a well-known company is a tremendous honor," said President Robert V. Antonucci. "It shows that we are on the cutting edge

when it comes to technology and communicating our message to parents and potential students."

The tour, found at www.fsc.edu, was launched Oct. 1 in an effort to augment campus recruiting efforts. The site highlights the campus and the region via film, photography, music and voiceover.

The Fitchburg State virtual tour joins other online tools such as podcast acceptance letters, instant messaging, e-mail and Internet applications.

Tips for starving students

'Munchies' shares basic knowledge of dorm cooking

BY RACHAEL PARADIS

Now that another school year is well underway, and everyone is unpacked and adjusted to their schedules, there's one thing left to do: find something to eat.

Many students, whether living on-campus or off, eventually find themselves starving into a barren fridge. What's a college student to do?

Well, how about listening to Kevin Roberts?

You've probably have never heard of him, but Roberts was once there, a college student who sat starving in his dorm room. After countless failed attempts and much trial and error, Roberts finally wrote his own cookbook, "Munchies: Cook What You Want, Eat What You Like" (Storey Books, 2004).

Ultimately, Roberts said, the worst part of living on your own is not having mom there to do all the cooking. Living in a fast-food nation, with so many diet-related health issues, it is imperative to start cooking and eating healthier.

The way to do this, Roberts said, is to start with the basics. To survive life in a dorm, you need to know how to: make a sandwich, boil water, and scramble eggs. Besides knowing these simple tasks, Roberts suggests having such basic cookware as measuring spoons, knives, a few pots and pans, and maybe even a strainer, can opener, and a set of mixing bowls.

In his book, Roberts also takes pity on those whose dorms are not so well equipped. For even the most confused scholar/chef, the author breaks down what to do if all you have is a freezer and a microwave.

The book is fully equipped with a "keep



STAFF PHOTO BY MEGAN BENEVIDES

Keeping some staples in the fridge will help stave off hunger later in the day.

these handy munchies in the freezer at all times" list. Do you miss taco night at home? No problem, frozen tacos are sold at any local grocery store. Stressing about a little weight gain? Frozen vegetables and fruits make delicious and nutritious snacks. Other need-to-have foods include frozen pizzas and Tater Tots. No matter what you crave you can have it at your fingertips, even with limited resources or cooking smarts.

Outside of eating right, being full, and staying healthy, Roberts has this advice to give: "Eat breakfast, because it starts your metabolism." Sausage, bagels, or waffles,

all of which can be frozen and heated effortlessly, are perfect meals to get your day, and your body, jump-started in the right direction. Whether you live in Aubuchon, Herlihy, or are one of the lucky few to be living in a townhouse, "Munchies" can teach you how to keep your stomach satisfied, and the Pepto-Bismol bottle closed.

Most of the recipes are "super-simple," requiring only one or two ingredients and a couple easy steps.

"Munchies" keeps the focus on "cheap, simple, tasty, and healthy" foods – the perfect recipe for a happy student!

Anime Club draws members

BY JOHN DAABOUL

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m., a group of Fitchburg State College students gathers in Alumni C in the Hammond Building to spend a few hours partaking in communal screenings of a beloved art form – Japanese animation, otherwise known as anime.

Now in its fourth year, the FSC Anime Club is continuing to thrive and grow. Though the group only counts about 20 members – a seemingly unimpressive number at first glance – it marks a respectable increase from the four- or five-person meetings during the club's early days. Every year, a few more people join, and they are in it for the long haul.

According Nick Asilo, the Anime Club's secretary/treasurer, the club was started by a "core group of bigtime geeks," with hopes that they would return to the school in five years and find the club still active.

This desire to see their organization live on can be observed in the accessible film selection.

Each semester the club's managers choose a film with mass appeal, such as the widely popular "Akira" or a Hayao Miyazaki movie.

Then over the course of the semester, the film selection is further and further diversified until, according to Asilo, anything (excluding pornographic or, even worse, unlicensed material) from "giant mech shows from the '70s to this week's stupid teen comedy" is up for contention.

Asilo continued, "We like to have our members experience shows they haven't seen before, [whether they are] people with 400 gigs of anime on their hard drive, people who've only seen a few popular shows, [or] people who've seen nothing at all."

Showings are almost entirely "group run." The modus operandi of the Anime Club is that whatever film seems interesting, or a certain piece someone sug-

gests, is what will be watched. If there is a disagreement between members (which Asilo says is very rare) a vote is taken to determine next week's choice.

In addition to the Wednesday viewings, the club co-sponsors a game night called "Club Geek."

It is what Asilo calls a "Trifecta of Awesome:" the Anime Club, the Martial Arts Club (which shares several members with the Anime Club), and the Ground Zero Gameroom run the free event once every semester.

The open invitation event usually runs five to six hours and consists of the guests playing games such as "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Super Smash Brothers."

All games, controllers and consoles are donated by interested students and club members.

Now in its second year, Asilo calls the gathering the club's "crown jewel." This semester's Club Geek has no set date, but club leaders are hoping to hold the event soon.

Route 2

A Literary Journal of
Fitchburg State College

Route 2
Department of English
Fitchburg State College
100 Pearl Street
Fitchburg MA 01420-2697

Route 2: road to creativity

BY MEAGAN COLBURN

Do you have poetry, fiction or art that you'd like to share?

Here's your chance: Route 2, a literary journal produced by the English department at FSC, is accepting submissions through Nov. 9.

The journal is created from a collection of "thoughtful, well-crafted contemporary poetry, fiction, and art," said Ian Williams, faculty member in the English department.

"Route 2 isn't so much a new journal as it is a reinvention of the college's previous literary journal, The Miller Hall Folio," Williams explained. "The English department felt that it was time to breathe some new energy into a publication that had gone defunct."

The first Route 2 Literary Journal was published in the spring of 2007.

There are some requirements for pieces submitted to Route 2:

Three to five poems can be accepted per author.

Fiction or creative-writing pieces should be double-spaced, and should not exceed 3,000 words. Artwork that can be reproduced in black and white is preferred.

Simultaneous submissions are permitted.

Williams said the English department hopes that Route 2 can become an FSC tradition each semester, since Route 2 is an opportunity for students to share their creativity and passions with their peers.

Students in Dr. Williams' poetry-writing class are responsible for selecting the poetry, fiction, and art to be published. Each student in the class has been assigned a different job to help create Route 2, from hanging posters to organizing local "open mic" nights to planning the Route 2 launch party.

The poetry-writing class has also created its own Route 2 group on Facebook. Anyone can join this group, which offers information about local poetry readings and the chance to discuss poetry, fiction and art with peers.

To submit work to Route 2, send email to route2@fsc.edu. For more information, visit www.fsc.edu/route2.

Massachusetts college graduates are now required to have health insurance. (Good idea.)

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Campus set for Cormier celebration

Fitchburg State College will celebrate the writings of internationally acclaimed author Robert Cormier on Thursday, Nov. 1 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in Miller Oval Room.

Cormier was the author of such classic American novels as "The Chocolate War," "I Am the Cheese," "After the First Death," "Heroes," and "Fade." A film version of Cormier's novel "Tenderness," starring Russell Crowe, Laura Dern and Jon Foster, is scheduled for release this month.

Cormier had a long and significant history with Fitchburg State. He received an honorary doctorate from the college, and his papers are housed at the college's Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

Cormier died in November 2000 at the age of 75.

Students, professors, administrators, staff and alumni will read aloud short passages from Cormier's writings, including his foreign editions. This yearly event is a joyous celebration of Cormier's words, as a variety of voices brings to life passages from each of Cormier's 19 books.

Members of Robert Cormier's family will attend the event and participate in the reading.

Cormier's association with Fitchburg State College spans more than a half-century, beginning in 1943 when he was an undergraduate student.

In 1977, he was awarded an honorary doctor of letters in recognition of his excellence in writing. His campus involvement included being a visiting artist, a yearly judge for the English Department Writing Contest, and a regular guest speaker in undergraduate and graduate courses.

Dr. Marilyn A. McCaffrey, professor emerita of English and guardian of the Robert Cormier Manuscript Collection at the college, is the moderator and organizer of this event



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICOLETTA AMATO

Sneaker Heads like John Whitfield, left, and Terrence Lomax can never get enough of their favorite footwear.

Hey, Sneaker Head!

Feet are the focus of their obsession

BY MARISA GALLOWAY

Have you noticed a distinct change in a close friend? Has he submitted a paper to his government class discussing the value of red Converse sneakers within a democratic society? Does he spend hours longingly stroking the display glass at the local FootLocker?

Then your friend may be a "Sneaker Head," a new urban term for a person who has a passion for collecting sneakers.

According to FSC student Terrence Lomax, who is a self-described Sneaker Head, it's all about finding the rarest of rare footwear.

"I bought a pair of sneaks for \$50, put them away, and now they're worth more than \$300," said Lomax.

Lomax is from the Boston area and says that he started collecting sneakers



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICOLETTA AMATO

Collectible sneakers come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

when he was younger. "It's a culture where it doesn't matter how old or what color you are, just what sneakers you have and what they mean to you," he said

Lomax unknowingly found himself wrapped up in the burgeoning culture of sneaker collectors when he started his hobby seven years ago.

According to Lomax, "A Sneaker Head collects sneakers to show his personality and style. They drop their jaws when they see a new color of their favorite model and will pay any amount of money to get a collectable sneaker that hasn't been released in years."

Why the obsession?

According to Lomax, "I saw the respect and attention I got from them and wanted to get more. I got a couple more pairs but then I started to mess them up and found out that when you

mess them up it's disrespectful to the sneaker. From that point I got some to collect and some to wear."

John Whitfield, another Sneaker Head from central Massachusetts, said, "Once you're a shoe collector, you start to appreciate the sneakers other people own that are in mint condition from years ago, or a new rare pair of shoes that are hard to get a hold of. It just becomes an obsession. It's weird."

How do you distinguish a true Sneaker Head?

Lomax says, "I've met people that I would never talk to and have become friends with just because of the common interest in sneakers. It's a crazy cult because nothing has to be said. When someone points at your feet and starts whispering to his friends, you know that he knows what's up. That's a Sneaker Head."

The most popular types of sneakers are Air Forces, Air Maxes, and Air Jordans, Lomax said.

These models are a big hit with the Sneaker Head crowd and their rarity ensures that sneaker heads are willing to pay any amount of money to get their hands on them to feed their rubber obsession.

"There are so many editions from way back in the day, you see them on eBay but it's hard to tell if it's a scam," Whitfield said.

"The shoes could be look-alikes, or they could be in poor condition. It's hard to tell, therefore I like to keep away from eBay when it comes to my shoes."

So what do you do when your friend confesses to you that he's a Sneaker Head and needs help?

"Just lead him to the closest shoe store," Whitfield jokingly said.

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